

May 2016  
Foreman Report

### Roads

- About 800 yards of gravel was spread on North Shore Rd., in the most needed areas. This has been needed for years, and will help improve road conditions and maintenance greatly.
- The dust control operation was delayed for about two weeks because of problems with the contractor's equipment, but starting June 7<sup>th</sup> loads of calcium chloride will begin to be applied to our gravel roads. All of the deliveries should be done by mid-June weather permitting.
- We will begin to cut the grass on the road shoulders in June, slight mechanical failure has delayed us on this task.
- The two big rain storms in May presented some challenges with a few culverts undermining and creating large holes in our roads. Two in particular are going to be replaced this fall and will be resized to allow for more efficient water flow and drainage. The DNR will be involved with both replacements.
- I met with the DNR on June 8<sup>th</sup> and walked the proposed road connecting Big Arn's/Brian's Rd. to Miller Farm Rd. I'm currently waiting on an email that will lay out the process and criteria to do so. You will receive copies as soon as I do.

### Parks

- Several great things are happening in our parks with the added Parks Supervisor position. A big improvement is at the pergola's garden, where it was bordered, replanted, and mulched. An added walk way around the fountain will allow wheel chairs and easier access in and out of the pergola and the welcome to LaPointe sign was repositioned to improve the overall appearance and look of the garden. All the materials for this job except for the plants and flowers were already on hand. Each of the island parks and buildings will be improved in the coming months and years to better beautify and clean them up. Joni's Beach is next on the list.
- Mulch was added to the Town Halls gardens, this was donated by Robin Russel. Thank you Robin.
- Two porta-potties were added at the corner of Bell St. and Le Sueur St. that will help with the lack of public restrooms downtown. They have been welcomed by most people. Gary and Robin Russel were gracious enough to allow the town to use their property while we plan for a permanent public restroom downtown, thank you Gary and Robin! The Chamber of commerce will be covering the pump out costs which is \$60/pump/tank. We will be keeping a close eye on the need to pump out to help ensure cleanliness.
- Unannounced to us, Leisure Interactive changed the nameservers on our parks website causing the site not to be accessible. After some great trouble shooting from our new camp host, Bill, we were able to edit the needed information and now everything works as it should. We currently have both [bigbaytownpark.com](http://bigbaytownpark.com) and [bigbaytownpark.org](http://bigbaytownpark.org) as our domain names this in itself was confusing there are also two different domain hosts. We will keep both .com and .org domains to keep someone else from buying it and creating a false website. The cost for each is about \$49/year.
- I met with two members of the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission on a plan for them to add an informational sign by Chief Buffalo's ceremonial grounds. This sign will be near

the warming pond and by the granite rock that symbolizes the Sandy Lake Tragedy from 1850. I will keep you up to date as things develop.

- The Rec Center was painted a lighter/brighter color. Not only did the building desperately need paint, it needed a new look. I think it ties in extremely well with the playground and surrounding area. In future budgets I would like to remodel the bathrooms and interior.

#### Equipment

- The rear tires on the 772 motor grader were rotated to hopefully get two more years of life.
- A small high pressure hydraulic line failed and was replaced on the 120 excavator.
- Our main 1990 plow truck (54) was thoroughly cleaned and desalted. This truck will be in the shop later in the summer to receive some major repairs to the frame and bed. This truck is will be the first to be replaced, when we start updating our large plow trucks.
- We ordered and added "Town of LaPointe" stickers to several of our trucks that did not have them. This, of course, will help better identify town employees and equipment.
- Joe Noah, our new Chief Engineer at the fire dept., has been doing an excellent job of exercising, checking, recording, and communicating maintenance issues with the fire equipment.
- Ted, Adam, and I drove to Superior and looked over the roll off truck that we ended up buying. It is currently in the shop being worked on, and I'm pleased to report that no major surprises have been discovered that need additional fixing. With any luck it will soon be on the road hauling island trash and recyclables to Ashland.
- We took ownership of our new 2016 5500 Dodge on May 31<sup>st</sup> it is currently at the body shop

#### Misc./Projects

- The solar array at the Library and Health Clinic is fully functional. As I'm sure you know the few hic-ups that occurred were with the past electrical work at the Library. John Carlson went out of his way to temporally fix the library electrical issues that allowed us to complete the Solar Project on May 26, which was the actual dead line for all of the grant filing and project completion. Thank you John! All of the electric works at the library, but an additional shut off and permanent conduit is needed. We plan to have the library's electric permanently fixed late June or early July. Two fences will also be built, one around the solar control boxes and one around the propane tanks, both of which the library has agreed to pay for.
- I'm very excited to report that Xcel Energy will be replacing all the street lights to LED lights in the coming months. This will save the town money on its electrical expenses and produce a nice white light on our down town roads. The changeover is no cost to the town and will be a great improvement.
- Both the Fire Hall and the WTB roofs were successfully replace. Cedar Brook construction did an outstanding job.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristian Larsen  
LaPointe Town Foreman